

**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC)
held Wednesday, September 29 2021, at Noon at the
Agriculture Auditorium, 1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200, Beaumont, TX 77701**

Order of Business:

Call to Order: The September 29, 2021 meeting was called to order at Noon by Chair Theresa Goodness. JCHC members in attendance were Jay Camp, Theresa Goodness, Kate Hambright, Bruce A. Hamilton, Steven P. Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Linn Simon, Don Smart, and Jen Trenbeath. A Quorum was determined. Also in attendance were Advisors Judy Linsley and Mike McGreevy.

Chair Goodness reminded everyone that the original September 15, 2021 meeting had been canceled due to the threat of inclement weather and flooding from Tropical Storm Nicholas. The weather did not turn out as bad as originally forecasted and no damage was reported.

There was no Citizens' Communications. There were no visitors in attendance.

ACTION ITEMS:

Secretary's Report – Secretary Jen Trenbeath. It was reported that Minutes of the July 7, 2021 meeting had been mailed out for consideration. Kate Hambright made a motion, seconded by Paul Prosperie, to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Linda McMahan reported that due to the pandemic the 2020 – 2021 JCHC Budget year, ending September 30th, will end with more funds remaining in the budget than ever before. Since there was no travel or mileage and few supplies ordered, the JCHC had only two big budget items: the printing of the 2022 JCHC Historical Calendar, and Name Tags / Vehicle Volunteer Signs. Please see "Attachment A" for the year-end amounts.

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness

Report of Status of Marker Survey

2021 Goal – Conduct a survey of all Jefferson County historical markers to ascertain whether they are missing or damaged from Hurricanes Laura and Delta, and whether restoration is warranted for each. The list of existing markers, the survey form, and assignments of markers to survey were divided among members.

Chair Goodness asked Coordinator Linda McMahan if all information had been turned in and it was reported that there was still one member who had not turned in his information. The member, in attendance, was aware that he still had outstanding information.

Report on Status of 2022 JCHC Calendars

2021 Goal – Design JCHC calendar for 2022, highlighting photographs and important historical events from Jefferson County's history. The calendars will be printed by Triangle Blueprint. The cost is \$5.75 each, and we will order 150 copies. Calendars will be mailed to our preservation partners, elected officials, and to all school districts in the county to be shared with their Texas history teachers.

Coordinator Linda McMahan reported the calendars were picked up that morning and each member could pick up their (one) personal copy at today's meeting. (Several members ordered additional personal copies which were paid for separate from County funds.) Several members noted that the picture for July was of Judge Leonard Giblin swearing in Judge John Paul Davis, Beaumont's first black judge. Judge Giblin had died the previous week from COVID and it was asked that a copy be sent to Mrs. Diane Giblin. Linda stated she was friends with Mrs. Giblin and would be sure she received a copy.

Report on Historic Preservation Bills passed in the regular 2021 Legislative Session.

Chair Goodness reported on several historic preservation bills passed in the regular 2021 Legislative Session:

- [HB 3971](#) amends current law relating to the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of residential real property located in a designated historic district. This bill allows property tax appraisers to take into consideration the economic impact of historic district designations on real estate values. Effective 1/1/2022
- [SB 1269](#) Expanding eligibility for participation in the state's **Main Street Program** to include communities and "historic neighborhood commercial districts" in addition to central business districts. Effective 9/1/2021.
- [HB3584](#) Establishes guidelines for **historic marker relocation** and provide legal remedies if monuments and markers were to be moved without the approval of the Texas Historical Commission. Effective 9/1/2021.
- [SB1177](#) Creates a task force to evaluate state-owned historic artifact collections and make recommendations for a potential disaster-secure conservation and storage facility shared by multiple state agencies. Effective 9/1/2021

Chair Goodness said a copy of the Bills would be available in the JCHC office.

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

Early African-American Schools and Educators - Lynn Simon reported he has an ongoing project to recover and restore reel film video. He received 62 reels of 8 mm film that contain video of the Hebert High School football team from the years of 1970 through 1976.

Mr. Simon has been promised VCR footage of Charlton-Pollard football games. This project has excited interest and support from the Charlton-Pollard and Hebert communities. They are in the process of acquiring tools needed to restore the film. The result of this project will require some time. The JCHC will be kept up to date on the progress.

Mr. Simon has acquired two (2) band trophies and two (2) sports trophies from Dunbar Middle School. He also received a 1998 photo from the Dunbar faculty and students.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness reported on Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness considered by the Beaumont Landmark Commission. Please see “Attachment B”.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan reported there have been no cases or meetings of the Port Arthur Landmark Commission. Make-up of the Commission has been reduced to seven (7) members to reflect the current number of Council positions. JCHC will retain a position on the Commission, but members have yet to be appointed / reappointed.

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis shared the Tyrrell Historical Library’s newly hired archivist has resigned and moved to Chicago. Bill Grace had three applications for the position; he interviewed all three and has hired one. Bruce A. Hamilton and Paul Prosperie have been working with Kelli Maness at the Magnolia Cemetery to restart the cemetery tours and discovered a huge cache of original documents, items that should be donated to the Tyrrell.

The Tyrrell Historical Library Association had a board meeting on September 28, 2021 attended by JCHC members Bruce A. Hamilton and Don Smart. There was a discussion on the Magnolia Cemetery documents and the possibility of the THLA paying to have them scanned.

Photos of Historical Buildings – Steven P. Lewis reported he continues his weekly photo run to Tyrrell Park to check on the progress on the CCC building. (He attended the 20th anniversary memorial to 9/11 at Tyrrell Park on Saturday, September 11, 2021.)

Steven reported the work on the building is almost complete. He has sent four emails to the Mayor and City Council members about completing the reroofing of the building. Only Mike Getz has acknowledged receiving them. The Job Superintendent has indicated that the City will do the landscaping around the building. The brick wall, the pool, and the fountain need to be repaired but Steven does not know exactly what the City plans to do. He sent a fifth email to the City Council about dressing up the area around the CCC building. Again, Mike Getz responded and does not know why the other members of the Council are reluctant to get involved and that there is money in the budget to complete the roofing of the building.

The Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission's plaque designating the building as a Historical Cultural Landmark was reinstalled on the building. And Entergy has finally connected the building to the power grid.

Steven has started to collect postcards of Texas State Parks that have CCC buildings. He has not been able to find cards for all the parks; some parks have cards but there is no CCC building pictured.

Steven continues to document new FEMA home construction. The FEMA house construction since Hurricane Harvey has been managed by the Texas General Land Office. He contacted them and stated that he is trying to photograph all of the new houses since all the new ones that he has seen have been on pilings instead of slabs. Their reply was that they could not supply that information because it is confidential. He emailed them and stressed that all he is interested in is the address, not the owner of the house.

TGLO sent an Excel file that consisted of 287 street names that have FEMA houses, but not the actual address. Steven tried for a few days of driving up and down a street, looking for a house on pilings. The streets in Beaumont are not continuous, i.e., they are divided into segments. From the City of Beaumont, he requested all the new construction building permits from January 2019 to August 17, 2021. Going through the lists, Steven was able to generate actual street addresses. Now his list includes 413 entries. Using Google Maps, he has printed out neighborhood maps and has located 261 FEMA houses, 60 non-FEMA houses, and a number of houses which must be slated for demolition and then new house constructed. Steven's Excel list is down to 69 locations that he needs to check but

has put on hold for a while. Lastly, not all the new homes are on pilings. Depending on the location, some are still on slabs.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart reports that the Sam Houston State Library is currently closed on Saturdays or is open by appointment only.

Tyrrell Park Coalition – Bruce A. Hamilton reported that the Tyrrell Park Coalition is encouraging all citizens to reach out to their City Council members regarding the status of the CCC building, of construction and the possibility of adding the roof to the back unroofed area of the building along with the condition on the outside of the structure.

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Bruce A. Hamilton reported the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House was the recipient of a \$250,000 grant from the National Parks Service to be administered by the Texas Historical Commission.

Military History – Kate Hambright reported she had nothing new to report.

Historical Markers and Research – Les McMahan reported:

2020 Cycle Markers –

On May 6, 2021, Les returned the first review of the first draft inscription from THC, with requested revisions for the Bill Hall – Gulf Coast Recording Company 2020 Cycle subject marker. THC sent the second draft inscription incorporating the requested changes on September 1st. Approval of the inscription was immediately forwarded to THC. He stated the marker had not been sent to the foundry for casting yet.

The marker for the Methodist Church in China 2020 Cycle subject marker is at the foundry to be cast, but it is in a line of 130 + markers to be casted at the foundry. THC said it may be next year before the marker is delivered.

2021 Cycle Markers –

The Chambers House application for a RTHL marker (Beaumont) in the 2021 Cycle was approved and payment for the marker was made by the sponsor. It will go into the line for writing of the first draft of the inscription. No firm date as to when the draft inscription might be received.

The marker application from St. Elizabeth Catholic Community – Port Neches was approved and payment for the marker was made by the sponsor. It, too, will go into the line for writing of the first draft of the inscription. No indication as to when the draft inscription might be received.

At the request of Theresa Goodness, Les McMahan participated in a Zoon workshop with TxDot regarding preservation of historic bridges to the extent it is feasible before their usable life comes to an end. In the Group A of TxDot on system bridges that still have significant life left, Jefferson County has two “historic” bridges (bridges that are older than 45 years) from the standpoint of being metal truss bridges designed and built prior to wide-spread use of concrete bridges or cable-stayed bridges. The two bridges are the Rainbow Bridge between Port Arthur and Orange, and MLK Bridge between mainland Port Arthur and Pleasure Island. TxDot will maintain these bridges until it is no longer practical, after which they will be replaced with current technology and design. The only other bridge near us that was noted as historic, but in the Group B of even older designs, was a metal truss bridge on US 190 over the Neches River east of Jasper. Bridges in this group are at or near their effective life span and will eventually be removed and replaced, but may live on in off-system (county or city) roads, displayed in parks/museums, or in use on hike and bike trails.

Les also announced that the Texas Historical Commission has created a new program known as the Texas Treasure Award to recognize business that have been in continual operation and ownership for 50 years or more. He will share more information at the next meeting.

History Appreciation:

Courthouse Mini-Museum Exhibits and Discussion of Proposed Exhibits – Linda McMahan reported the Texas Historical Commission sponsors Texas Archeology Month (TAM) each October. Numerous organizations, including the Jefferson County Historical Commission, celebrate the month with special TAM events in communities throughout the state. The mini-museum currently has an archaeology exhibit to commemorate October as Archaeology month. Special thanks to Brenda Jackson for putting together this exhibit which will remain through the end of November.

Report on Updates to the JCHC Website and Social Media – Jen Trenbeath – Nothing new to report.

Report on Events at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum - Don Smart reported Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum has made more than double the revenue than last year, despite only having 29 more people. They are now doing improvements to the Saloon, the old bathrooms, the Oil Exchange building and the old visitor's center. They have finished the Historical Southeast Texas Art Show done in collaboration with the Artists of Southeast Texas. It was a great exhibit of art done by three area artists.

Boomtown will have their first live online Q & A series called "Coffee & Spindletop" on October 14 at 6 PM. It will be live on the Museum's and Lamar's Facebook pages. The Museum is waiting for the completion of the repairs to the gusher. They brought the gusher motor last week but the rain has caused a delay in finishing the repairs. There will be an appreciation day for Dow Chemical and Invista workers on October 9. Also, Museum Madness weekend is October 22 – 24 when all Beaumont Museums will have an event on one of those days. Our Homecoming car show is on November 13, and the Girls Scout Day is on November 6.

Lastly, the Boomtown Museum is saddened by the loss of Earl Keith, who not only was the leader of the re-enactors but also helped out during tours. It is big lost for the Museum and also for Southeast Texas.

Report on Coastal History – Jay Camp read an interesting story published in the "Beach Treton". Jay's knowledge of the Texas Gulf Coast between Sabine Pass and Galveston is important in the preserving of our coastal history.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson was out of town and no report shared.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie invited everyone to come out for the Cemetery Tours at Magnolia Cemetery on Thursday, October 21 and Saturday, October 23, 2021. Several JCHC members will be volunteering as docents on the tours.

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan reported repair work on the inside of the Sub-Courthouse was complete.

Linda also reported there are two new offices on the third floor of the Historic Courthouse. Tyler Technologies Training is working with the MIS department in preparing Jefferson County for a new computer system that will go into effect the end of 2022. The training is going on in the former JCHC Conference Room.

Gab Gross, from Engineering, is over a new GIS Department around the corner from the JCHC. This department is using several pieces of JCHC furniture that will remain on the Commission's inventory. He will use the big pencil Courthouse drawing that was formerly in the Conference Room, along with a watercolor of the Courthouse. Gab is also using the Information Clock that was in the JCHC Library.

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Theresa Goodness

- Report on Status of Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project being conducted under the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant.

Theresa reported in the third quarter of 2021, HHM, Inc. completed the Draft Research Design and Public Input Plan (Task 2, delivered on July 1, 2021), as well as the Final (Task 3, delivered on July 14, 2021). These deliverables set forth the methodology for all research, fieldwork, and public input to be completed in following tasks. In August, HHM began research, following the approved final Research Design (Task 4). Completion of the research task is anticipated by October 8, 2021.

New Business Not Listed on the Agenda: The Beaumont City Council has been discussing the possibility of offering Beaumont as a new and permanent location for the Battleship Texas. A special meeting will be held on October 13, 2021 to discuss this possibility and consider offering a support letter by the JCHC.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
2020 – 2021 Budget Report
September 29, 2021**

Line Item	Budget	Spent	Remaining
30-10 Books	\$250	\$0	\$250.00
30-78 Supplies	\$2,000	\$452.14	\$1,547.86
30-90 Education	\$3,000	\$1,279.60	\$1,720.40
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$0	\$500.00
50-12 Markers	\$3,300	\$0	\$3,300.00
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$455.00	\$395.00
50-62 Travel	\$1,5000	\$0	\$1,500.00
50-62 Postage	\$300	\$197.00	\$103.00
Totals	\$11,700	\$2,383.74	\$9,316.26

Attachment B

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met twice since my last report. On **July 12, 2021**, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- 1) PZ2021-179: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for an archive conservation building.

Applicant: Mike Jenkins

Location: 2240 Calder Avenue

The request was approved.

On **September 13, 2021**, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- 1) PZ2021-263: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace windows to a house.

Applicant: Sam Daleo Jr.

Location: 2525 Hazel Avenue

This item was tabled.

- 2) PZ2021-267: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house and shed.

Applicant: City of Beaumont

Location: 2372 North Street

The request was approved.

- 3) PZ2021-272: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new front door.

Applicant: Matthew Clark

Location: 2505 Louisiana

The request was approved.